



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

09/995,818

11/29/2001

Eiji Furukawa

122.1476

9741

21171

7590

03/31/2006

STAAS & HALSEY LLP
SUITE 700
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

ROSARIO, DENNIS

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2624

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Advisory Action
Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief**

Application No.

09/995,818

Applicant(s)

FURUKAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Dennis Rosario

Art Unit

2621

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 16 March 2006 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☒ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
(a) ☒ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
(b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
(c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
(d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: See Continuation Sheet. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
7. ☒ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☐ will not be entered, or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.
The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
Claim(s) allowed: _____.
Claim(s) objected to: _____.
Claim(s) rejected: 1-9, 11, 12 and 14.
Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing a good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☒ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:
See the attached "Response to Amendment".
12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08 or PTO-1449) Paper No(s).
13. ☐ Other: _____.



BHAVESH M. MEHTA

**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800**

Continuation of 3. NOTE: Claims 1,9 has the limitation of "drawing sheets" and claim 14 has the active limitation of "dividing" that would require a new search and further consideration.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The after final amendment was received on March 16, 2006. Claims 1-9,11,12 and 14 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments on page 9, last paragraph, filed 3/16/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive and states:

"...claim 1, recites means for creating an inter-drawing connection diagram file...which is not disclosed by Kaiser..."

However, the examiner respectfully disagrees, since Kaiser discloses a means for (fig. 4,num. 38 or "schematic capture package" in col. 3, line 36) creating ("created" in col. 3, line 34) an inter-drawing connection diagram file (as shown by the connections via the arrows within fig. 4,num. 38 or as shown in fig. 1, where each sheet of fig. 1 is connected to other sheets via a solid or dashed line.).

3. Applicant's arguments on page 9, last paragraph, filed 3/16/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive and states:

"It follows that nothing in Kaiser et al. 'describes relations of mutual connections between a plurality of drawings' as defined in claim 1..."

However, the examiner respectfully disagrees, since Kaiser describes relations of mutual connections (as shown by either a dashed or solid line between the rectangles that are labeled as "SHEET") between a plurality of drawings (where each sheet has a drawing).

4. Applicant's arguments on page 10, first paragraph, filed 3/16/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive and states:

"...Kaiser et al. does not have any element corresponding to... 'means for indicating, on one screen, a plurality of the drawings miniaturized according to the description in the inter-drawing connection diagram file which has been created.'"

However, the examiner respectfully disagrees, since Kaiser does have an element (fig. 2,num. 34a) corresponding to means for indicating, on one screen, a plurality of the drawings miniaturized (fig. 2, num. 34a includes at least fig. 2,num. 22 as shown in the middle left side of fig. 2,num. 34a as a "functional block" in col. 5, line 63 which corresponds to the claimed "drawings miniaturized") according to the description in the inter-drawing connection diagram file (of fig. 1 where ADD-DET SHEET 1 corresponds to fig. 2,num. 34a and DECODE SHEET 1 corresponds to fig. 2, numerals 34b shown as individual elements and in fig. 2,num. 34a as a functional block) which has been created.


BHAVESH M. MEHTA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600